



# Mount Vernon

*An Innovative Community; Authentically Hometown*

## **Roadwork Updates for Mansfield Avenue, Fairgrounds Road**

*Both projects are focused on long-term infrastructure improvements*

MOUNT VERNON, April 15, 2025 – The City of Mount Vernon is pleased to provide important updates on two major infrastructure projects: the Mansfield Avenue improvements and Fairgrounds Road upgrades. These efforts are part of the City’s continued commitment to enhancing public safety, improving transportation efficiency, and preparing for future growth.

“These infrastructure projects represent a significant investment in the future of Mount Vernon and Knox County. They are essential to improving our public utilities, managing stormwater, and enhancing our transportation infrastructure,” said Mayor Matthew Starr.

“While we understand construction can cause temporary inconvenience, the benefits will be well worth it. We ask for everyone’s patience and cooperation by using alternate routes, following posted detours, slowing down and driving carefully on narrow roadways. We can get these projects done safely and on schedule, together.”

### **Mansfield Avenue Improvements**

The Mansfield Avenue project is a comprehensive infrastructure initiative focused on improving road conditions, upgrading water and drainage systems, and increasing the long-term durability of a vital transportation corridor. An additional phase of this project, to be completed at a later date, also includes the addition of a new shared-use path, or bike trail, to promote alternative transportation and recreational opportunities.

#### **Scope of work:**

The scope of this project includes waterline replacement and two culvert replacements – one north of Town & Country Veterinary (191 Mansfield Ave.) and the other south of Town & Country Veterinary. This project also includes a 0.8-mile, eight-foot-wide, shared-use bike trail that will be located along the east or west sides of Mansfield Avenue within an existing right-of-way. As of April 11, 2025, the waterline replacement has been completed and the first culvert replacement – north of Town & Country Veterinary – has been completed. The second culvert replacement is currently in progress. The bid for the shared-use path will open on April 24, 2025.

#### **Timeline:**

The second culvert replacement is under way and is expected to be completed by May 23, 2025, weather permitting. This portion of this project was slated for completion in the fall of 2024. However, due to adverse weather conditions, contractors were unable to complete the work within the anticipated timeline, causing the project delay and completion of the project to coincide with the beginning of the Fairgrounds Road project. Columbia Gas has also commenced work along Mansfield Avenue replacing outdated and deteriorated gas mains and service lines. This work is not connected to any project with the City of Mount Vernon or Knox County. However, this work must be completed before the construction of the shared-use path can commence. Construction of the shared-use path is scheduled to begin by May 26, 2025, with completion expected by October 15, 2025, weather permitting.

**Traffic impacts:**

Mansfield Avenue will be closed to through traffic during construction. Local access will be maintained for residents and emergency services. Motorists are advised to use North Mulberry Street, North Sandusky Street or Wooster Avenue as alternative routes. Detour signage will be clearly posted.

**Fairgrounds Road Upgrades**

The Fairgrounds Road project is a joint initiative with the Knox County Engineer and County Board of Commissioners that is timed to enhance traffic flow in advance of the Knox County Fair. The project focuses on both immediate accessibility and long-term infrastructure improvements.

**Scope of work:**

The scope of work includes an installation of a water transmission main from the fairgrounds' east gate to Mansfield Avenue, reconstruction of failed stormwater facilities adjacent to the fairgrounds, complete resurfacing of Fairgrounds Road, and shoulder stabilization.

**Timeline:**

Construction is under way and is scheduled for completion by July 17, 2025, weather permitting.

**Traffic impacts:**

Fairgrounds Road will remain open from both directions for Knox County Fair traffic. While minor delays may occur, drivers are encouraged to use Wooster Road and McKenzie Road when possible. Motorists are encouraged to drive slowly and exercise caution on rural roads, where limited visibility, narrow lanes and unexpected obstacles can create hazardous conditions.

For more information about these projects, contact the City's Engineering Department at 740-393-9528 or [engineer@mountvernonohio.org](mailto:engineer@mountvernonohio.org).

### END ###

**ABOUT THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON:**

The City of Mount Vernon is an innovative community with an authentic hometown feel. The City is dedicated to providing modern services with an emphasis on continual improvement, customer service and equitable laws that support our citizens and visitors, while retaining and attracting investors in our community. Home to 17,000 people, Mount Vernon is the county seat for Knox County and boasts historic buildings and districts as well as business and professional, educational and recreational opportunities through many adaptive reuses of the community's infrastructure and spaces. The City has strong ties to higher education, with Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Kenyon College and Central Ohio Technical College operating satellite locations in the historic downtown. Located 40 miles northeast of Columbus, Mount Vernon is near the geographic center of Ohio and has connections all over the globe.

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